



NASHVILLE MUSIC CITY KIWI CHAPTER AUGUST 2026

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Dear fellow Kiwis,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break! Whether your travels took you across the country, around the world, or simply staying at home with a good book, I hope you had a chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy family and friends. After our summertime off, I'm sure a lot of you are ready for a break from the heat and a wonderful fall together.

I have missed you all and look forward to reconnecting at our September meeting and luncheon. It will take place at the home of Martha Clark and there will be a reminder sent out with more details September 8. We have a very special chapter finding friendship, laughter, and a caring spirit, that each of you brings. Thank you for making our Kiwi family such a welcoming place!

As we begin the fall season, we'll be renewing memberships and continuing our support of Second Harvest Food Bank, and all the worthy charities we support that are at the heart of our chapter. I hope that you will all join me as we catch up, share stories from our summer adventures, and welcome both familiar and new faces.

Our planning for the 2028 Palm Springs Convention is in the planning stage, and I am honored to Co-Chair the Convention with my good friend, Connie Nemes. I am excited to share updates as plans continue to take Flight. It will be an event to remember!

Thank you for having me serve as your President. I look forward to the upcoming year of friendship, comradery, fun times together, and to see you all soon!

Kiwi hugs,

PAULA

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Second Harvest

**When you support Second Harvest, you make
this possible:**

Pounds of food distributed: 50,826,717

Nutritious meals provided: 42,355,598

Pounds of food rescued from producers, retailers and individual partners: 3,100,000

Meals provided through our Mobile Pantry distributions: 3,907,502



Volunteers are the heartbeat of Second Harvest. Help empower your neighbors and have a blast doing it!

July 9, 2026, Second Harvest Numbers

4813 lb of Food Sorted (Limit is 5000)

3177 People Fed from the sort

13 Total Volunteers

Nashville Music City Volunteers: Melissa, Janice and Sam



The Sky's the Limit

Stories from the American Airlines Kiwi Club

Dedicated to preserving the stories and friendships of the American Airlines Kiwi Club.



KIWI SPOTLIGHT

Martha Clark (Sarah Martha Clark Wheat)

42 Years of Service • LGA • LAX • BNA • DFW

What began as a simple suggestion from her mother became the adventure of a lifetime.

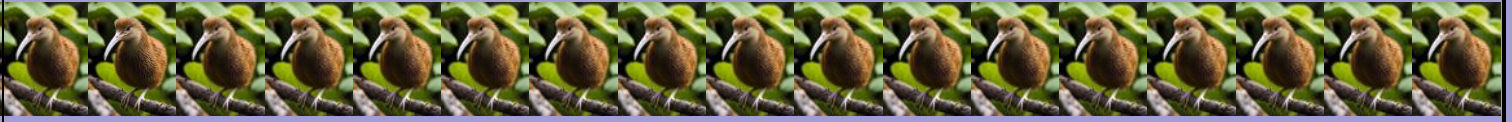
When Martha's parents returned from a trip to Dallas, her mother smiled and said, "You should be a stewardess." Martha didn't hesitate. "Boom!" she recalls. "I thought that was a great idea!" That one conversation led to an extraordinary 42-year career with American Airlines, serving from crew bases in New York (LGA), Los Angeles (LAX), Nashville (BNA), and Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW).

Like so many flight attendants, Martha's career was filled with unforgettable moments, but one memory still brings a smile to her face.

One of Martha's favorite memories began during a special assignment when she traveled to Chicago to discuss catering ideas for American Airlines. Dressed in a business suit and high heels, she expected to attend the meeting and then fly back to Los Angeles. However, when she and her colleague arrived at Crew Scheduling after the meeting, they learned there was no crew available for the flight. They were asked if they would be willing to work the trip, and without hesitation, they agreed.

Crew Scheduling quickly pieced together leftover uniform pieces for them, although none of them fit very well—they were much too small! As Martha prepared for the flight, she noticed a First Class passenger walking through the DC-10 galley wearing a pair of comfortable Reeboks. Martha couldn't take her eyes off those shoes. Gathering her courage, she asked the passenger what size they were.

"Size 10," the passenger replied.



Martha smiled and said, "That's my size too! Would you mind if I borrowed your Reeboks for the flight to Los Angeles?" The passenger graciously agreed.

When they arrived in Los Angeles, Martha returned the shoes with heartfelt thanks, along with a bottle of champagne and a bottle of wine as a token of her appreciation. She was incredibly grateful that she didn't have to work the entire flight in those high heels. To this day, it's one of her favorite memories because it perfectly reflects the kindness, generosity, and camaraderie that made a career with American Airlines so special.

When asked what flying taught her, Martha didn't hesitate.

"No matter what might be going on personally, you could always find comfort through galley therapy."

Those few words capture something every flight attendant understands. The galley wasn't just a workspace—it was where friendships were built, laughter was shared, and encouragement was always waiting when it was needed most.

Today, Martha treasures a different kind of freedom. She enjoys gardening, taking long walks, spending time with her large family, participating in church activities, and happily saying "yes" to invitations without first checking a flight schedule. She also cherishes being a member of the Kiwi Club.

"Being a Kiwi has been such a joy to me. I get to see friends and share a camaraderie that is unique and special."

Although she loved traveling the world, Boston and Paris remain her favorite layovers, places that hold wonderful memories from a remarkable career.

As Martha reflects on her years with American Airlines, she smiles at the memories of borrowed Reeboks, galley therapy, treasured friendships, and a career that exceeded every expectation.

When asked to describe those 42 years in just two words, her answer says it all.

Life Changing!



The Sky's the Limit

The flights may have ended...but the friendships continue to soar.

Dedicated to preserving the stories and friendships of the American Airlines Kiwi Club.

Interviewed and reported by: J.J. Love



Some wonderful news from the Wings Foundation and their 2nd quarter funding and Flight Attendant assistance:

For April, May and June of 2026 Wings:

- **Approved 30 grants**
- **Distributed \$115, 450.00 in direct financial assistance**
 - **29 FADR grants and 1 FADR grant**
 - **Average amount of the grants: \$3848.00**
- **Flight Attendants from 10 different bases received assistance this year.**
- **On average, Wings approves one grant every three days throughout the quarter**
 - **May was the busiest month, with 12 grants totaling \$53,100.00**

The Kiwi Club should be very proud of the financial assistance that we donate to Wings.

It is that time. Your Kiwi Membership dues are being collected

Renew Your Membership

Renew Now

It's time to renew your 2026–2028 Kiwi Club National Membership!

National membership dues for the 2026–2028 term will be collected through November 30, 2026. To remain an active member of The Kiwi Club, each member pays \$50 every two years. A 30-day grace period is provided, but renewals received after December 31, 2026 will include a \$5 late fee.

The Easiest Way to Renew

Renewing couldn't be easier. Most members can renew in less than a minute!

Simply click the DUES Payment Link below and you will be taken directly to our secure Square payment portal. You may pay using a credit card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay. That's it! Your membership will be renewed through December 31, 2028.

DUES Payment Link <https://square.link/u/CMbHhQiL>



Prefer to Pay by Check?

If you are not comfortable renewing online, you may still pay by check.
Please make your \$50 check payable to The Kiwi Club.

You may either:

Give your check to your chapter treasurer, who will mail it for you, or
Mail it directly to:

The Kiwi Club National Treasurer
Wanda Kromer
129 Northlake Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075

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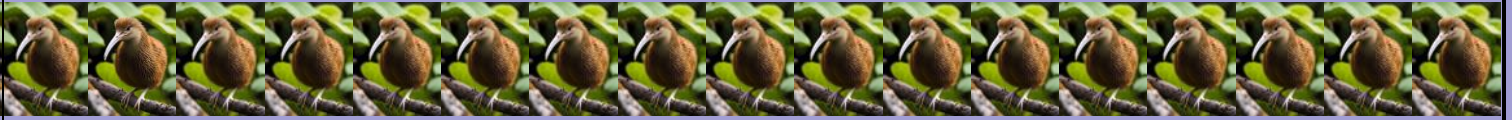
If you have questions about how or where to pay your National Dues, contact Sam Gooch, Nashville Music City Kiwi Chapter President, 732/644-5890 or kiwisam.gooch@gmail.com

Another reminder: Please go to thekiwiclub.org website and click on: Membership (tab at the top of the page). Then click on Membership Information Update and following this page.

Please fill out the form if you have moved, changed phone numbers or need to add an emergency contact.
Keyboard

Keep Your Information Up-to-Date

To ensure that we can stay in touch with you, it's essential that our records are accurate and current. If you've had any changes to your personal information—such as a name, address, phone number, chapter affiliation, or officer status we kindly ask that you inform us as soon as possible.



Filling out our online form is quick and easy! Your updates will go directly into our national database. This will help us:

- Ensure timely communication for important announcements, events, and updates.
- Keep your chapter records accurate and organized.
- Avoid any gaps in membership benefits or notifications.

Please let your chapter president know of any changes to your contact information!

By keeping your information up to date, you're helping us maintain a strong, connected, and efficient community. Click on the link below to make changes.

Take a moment today to update your details!

The kids have all their SMS codes like WTF, LOL and PMSL etc, .

So here are some codes for the more mature 40 plus:

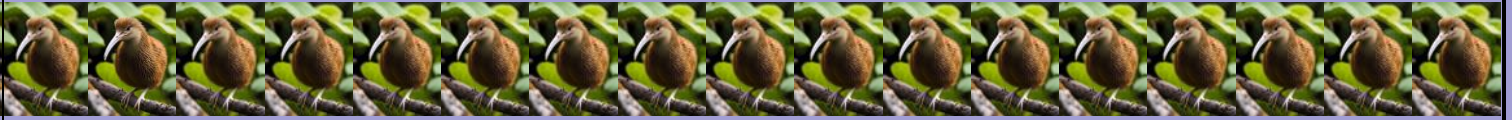
ATD = At the door

BFF = Best Friends Funeral

BTW = Bring the Wheelchiar

HGBM = Had Good Bowel Movement

WTFMT = Where are my Feet



And as we approach September 11th



Her name was Betty Ong.

She grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown, the daughter of a family that ran a small grocery store on Jackson Street. She played in the alleys and parks of the neighborhood as a little girl. She wasn't wealthy. She wasn't famous. She had a dream — to travel, to see the world, to take care of people — and she found a way to live it.

In 1987, she became a flight attendant for American Airlines.

She was good at it. Not just competent — genuinely good. The kind of flight attendant who walked the aisles on overnight flights while passengers slept, tucking in blankets, softly checking on the ones who were awake. The kind who would hold a stranger's baby so a tired parent could rest.

Her family called her "Bee."

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Betty assigned herself to Flight 11 — Boston to Los Angeles. She wanted to connect to San Francisco and then fly on to Hawaii with her sister. A vacation she had been looking forward to.

At 7:59 a.m., the plane took off from Boston Logan Airport.

At approximately 8:20 a.m. — twenty-one minutes into the flight — Betty Ong walked to the back galley of the aircraft, picked up a GTE Airfone, and dialed American Airlines reservations.

The phone was answered by Vanessa Minter, a reservations agent at the center in Cary, North Carolina.

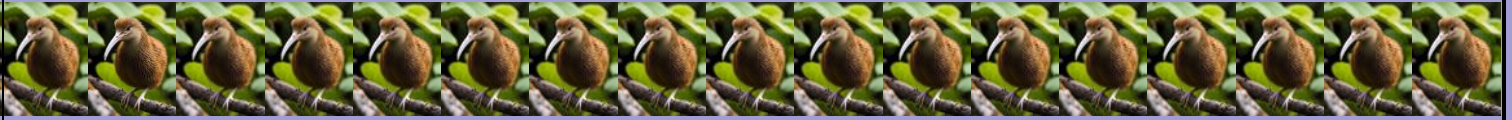
Betty did not panic. She did not cry. In a voice that Minter would later describe as steady and immediate, she said the words that no one had ever called in before:

"I think we're being hijacked."

Minter immediately patched in her supervisor, Nydia Gonzalez, and stayed on the line.

For the next twenty-three minutes, Betty Ong told the ground everything she could see.

The cockpit was not answering. The crew could not get through the door. Two flight attendants had been stabbed. A passenger in business class had been killed. Someone had sprayed what she believed



was Mace — people couldn't breathe. She gave seat numbers. She described positions, movements, what she could hear.

She was sitting at the back of the plane. She could not see the cockpit. She could not stop what was happening. She could only do one thing — keep talking, keep the line open, keep feeding information to the people on the ground who were scrambling to understand what none of them had ever encountered before.

She kept talking.

"In a very calm, professional and poised demeanor, Betty Ong relayed to us detailed information of the events unfolding on Flight 11," Nydia Gonzalez later testified to the 9/11 Commission. "Several media accounts claimed that Betty was hysterical with fear, shrieking and gasping for air. Those accounts were wrong."

She had been there. She knew.

What Betty didn't know — what none of them could have known — was what her call was setting in motion on the ground below her.

The seat numbers she read out calmly over the phone would allow the FBI to identify the hijackers within hours. The information she relayed traveled from American Airlines operations to the FAA to air traffic control in real time — building a picture of something coordinated, something deliberate, something no protocol had ever been written for.

Her call was the first confirmation that what was happening in the sky that morning was not an accident.

It was the reason the FAA made a decision that had never been made before in the history of the United States — and has never been made since.

Every plane flying over American airspace was ordered to land. All of it — grounded. For the first time in history. Groundwater World

Betty Ong made that happen.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

The line went quiet.

Gonzalez stayed on the open call for a moment, not yet understanding what had happened.

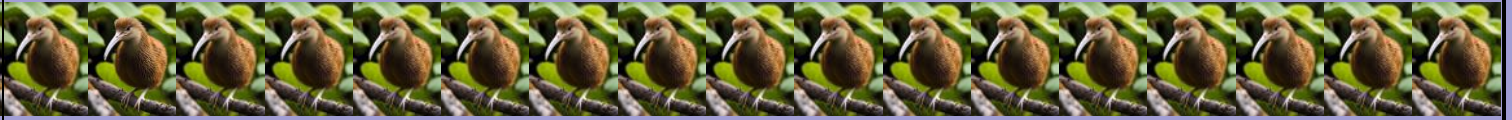
"Betty, talk to me. Betty, are you there? Betty? Okay... I think we might have lost her."

Betty's family spent months afterward fighting simply to hear her voice again. Her brother Harry called Senator Edward Kennedy's office and asked for help. In January 2002, the family was brought to a private room at San Francisco Airport and played the recording.

It was the first time they had heard her speak since the morning of the 11th.

"Her first duty is for the passengers and for the plane," Harry said afterward. "She didn't call us because her first responsibility as a flight attendant that day was to help the plane and the passengers, and that's why she made that call." EBSCO

In the spring of 2002, the New York City Medical Examiner's office called Betty's sister Cathie. At the base of where the North Tower had stood, a two-inch fragment of bone and some soft tissue had been recovered and identified. That was all that remained of Betty Ann Ong. NBC News



She was brought home to San Francisco. She is buried at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, in the Ong family plot.

When the 9/11 Commission played portions of her call in 2004, the room fell completely silent.

Vanessa Minter — the reservations agent who answered the phone that morning — has given interviews for over twenty years about what it meant to be on the other end of that call.

"You have to understand," Minter said. "Betty Ong, to me, was the hero. She was the hero. Not me." EBSCO

The recreation center in San Francisco's Chinatown where Betty played as a child has been renamed in her honor. Her name is carved into the memorial at Ground Zero. A foundation bearing her name sends children to camp and teaches them about healthy living — because that was the kind of person she was. Someone who thought about children she would never meet.

She was going to Hawaii.

She was forty-five years old.

She had fourteen years of putting blankets on sleeping strangers and holding other people's babies on overnight flights.

And on the morning the world changed, she walked to the back of a hijacked plane, picked up a phone, and did her job — completely, professionally, without panic, without hesitation — for twenty-three minutes.

She talked until there was nothing left to say.

**Her name was *Betty Ong*
Remember it.**

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks killed 2,996 people in total, including 19 hijackers who committed suicide attacks Wikipedia. When excluding the hijackers, the official death toll from the attacks themselves is 2,977